

ASSEMBLY, No. 2911

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 2008

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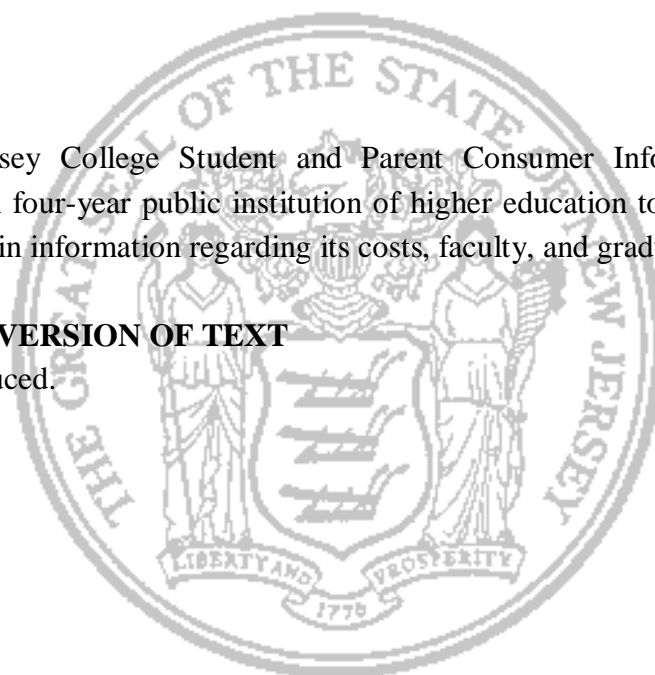
**Assemblyman Rumpf, Assemblywomen Addiego, Voss, Assemblymen
DeAngelo and Schaer**

SYNOPSIS

“New Jersey College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act”; requires each four-year public institution of higher education to provide on its website certain information regarding its costs, faculty, and graduation rates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2008)

1 AN ACT concerning consumer information for college students and
2 their families and supplementing chapter 3B of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey
9 College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act."

10
11 2. a. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
12 provide for public inspection on its website comprehensive
13 information on the cost of attendance, the graduation rates of
14 admitted students, and the faculty of the institution. The purpose of
15 the information shall be to maximize the awareness of students and
16 their families of the costs associated with enrollment in the
17 institution, the institution's success in ensuring the graduation of its
18 students, and the composition of the teaching faculty that a student
19 will encounter in his coursework. The institution shall post, and
20 annually update, a student consumer information report on its
21 website that includes:

22 (1) overall four-year and six-year graduation rates;

23 (2) four-year and six-year graduation rates by demographic group;

24 (3) four-year and six-year graduation rates by major;

25 (4) four-year and six-year graduation rates for student-athletes;

26 (5) the student transfer rate;

27 (6) an overview of the institutions to which former students of that
28 college or university have transferred prior to the completion of a
29 degree;

30 (7) the cost for the current academic year of attending the
31 institution including tuition, student fees, room and board, and books
32 and materials;

33 (8) a description of the types of financial assistance offered directly
34 by the institution to both student-athletes and to students who do not
35 participate in athletic programs at the institution;

36 (9) the percent of student-athletes who receive financial assistance
37 directly from the institution and the average value of the assistance and
38 the percent of students who do not participate in athletic programs at
39 the institution who receive financial assistance directly from the
40 institution and the average value of the assistance;

41 (10) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
42 campus and complete a degree in four years and the total projected
43 cost for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a
44 degree in four years;

45 (11) the total projected cost for an incoming freshman to live on
46 campus and complete a degree in six years and the total projected cost
47 for an incoming freshman to commute to school and complete a degree
48 in six years;

1 (12) average student loan indebtedness of four-year graduates for
2 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

3 (13) average student loan indebtedness of six-year graduates for
4 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

5 (14) average student loan indebtedness of a student who withdraws
6 from the institution prior to the completion of a degree program for
7 both students who live on campus and students who commute;

8 (15) an overview of the institution's faculty, including the
9 percentage of faculty employed as a tenured professor, the percentage
10 of faculty employed as a full-time non-tenured professor, and the
11 percentage of faculty employed as an adjunct or visiting professor;

12 (16) the percentage of courses taught by each of the different
13 categories of faculty; and

14 (17) an indicator of each academic department's capacity to serve
15 the students majoring within that department's programs, as
16 determined by the Commission on Higher Education.

17 The institution shall provide with all paper applications for
18 admission to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared
19 pursuant to this section.

20 b. A four-year public institution of higher education shall
21 conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by the
22 Commission on Higher Education in reporting the information
23 required pursuant to this section

24 c. A four-year public institution of higher education shall submit
25 its student consumer information report to the Commission on
26 Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative profile of the
27 student consumer information reports of all four-year public
28 institutions of higher education.

29 d. A four-year public institution of higher education shall ensure
30 that the page of its Internet site which includes its student consumer
31 information report contains a link to the page of the Commission on
32 Higher Education's Internet site that includes the comparative
33 profile required pursuant to subsection b. of section 3 of this act.

34 e. A four-year public institution of higher education shall ensure
35 that the Internet site for submitting an online application to the
36 institution contains a link to the institution's student consumer
37 information report.

38 f. A four-year public institution of higher education shall require
39 the parent or guardian of a student applying for admission into the
40 institution, or the student if he is an independent adult, to sign and
41 submit a statement acknowledging that he has reviewed the
42 institution's student consumer information report.

43
44 3. a. The Commission on Higher Education shall issue
45 guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the information
46 required pursuant to section 2 of this act and shall prescribe a
47 uniform reporting method for posting the information.

1 b. The Commission on Higher Education shall annually compile
2 the student consumer information reports submitted pursuant to
3 subsection c. of section 2 of this act into a comparative profile of all
4 four-year public institutions of higher education. The commission
5 shall present the information on its website in a manner that allows
6 college students and their families to easily compare student
7 consumer information across institutions.

8
9 4. This act shall take effect on the 61st day after the date of
10 enactment.

11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill, which if enacted will be known as the "New Jersey
15 College Student and Parent Consumer Information Act," will
16 maximize the awareness of students and their families of the costs
17 associated with enrollment in the institution, the institution's
18 success in ensuring the graduation of its students, and the
19 composition of the teaching faculty that a student will encounter in
20 his coursework. Under the bill, each four-year public institution of
21 higher education in the State is required to provide on its website
22 comprehensive information on the cost of attendance, the
23 graduation rates of admitted students, and the faculty of the
24 institution. Such information must be updated annually. The
25 institution must also provide with all paper applications for admission
26 to the institution a hard copy of the information prepared under the bill
27 for the website.

28 The bill requires each four-year public institution of higher
29 education to:

30 (1) conform to the guidelines, criteria, and format prescribed by
31 the Commission on Higher Education in reporting the required
32 information;

33 (2) submit its student consumer information report to the
34 Commission on Higher Education for inclusion in a comparative
35 profile of the student consumer information reports of all four-year
36 public institutions of higher education;

37 (3) ensure that the page of its Internet site which includes its
38 student consumer information report contains a link to the
39 comparative profile of student consumer information reports on the
40 Commission on Higher Education's Internet site;

41 (4) ensure that the Internet site for submitting an online
42 application to the institution contains a link to the institution's
43 student consumer information report; and

44 (5) require the parent or guardian of a student applying for
45 admission into the institution, or the student if he is an independent
46 adult, to sign and submit a statement acknowledging that he has
47 reviewed the institution's student consumer information report.

1 The bill directs the Commission on Higher Education to issue
2 guidelines and criteria for collecting and calculating the information
3 required to be reported under the bill. The commission is further
4 directed to prescribe a uniform reporting method for the posting of
5 the information. The bill also directs the commission to compile a
6 comparative profile of the student consumer information reports of
7 the four-year public institutions of higher education and to present
8 the profile on its website in a manner that allows college students
9 and their families to easily compare student consumer information
10 across institutions.